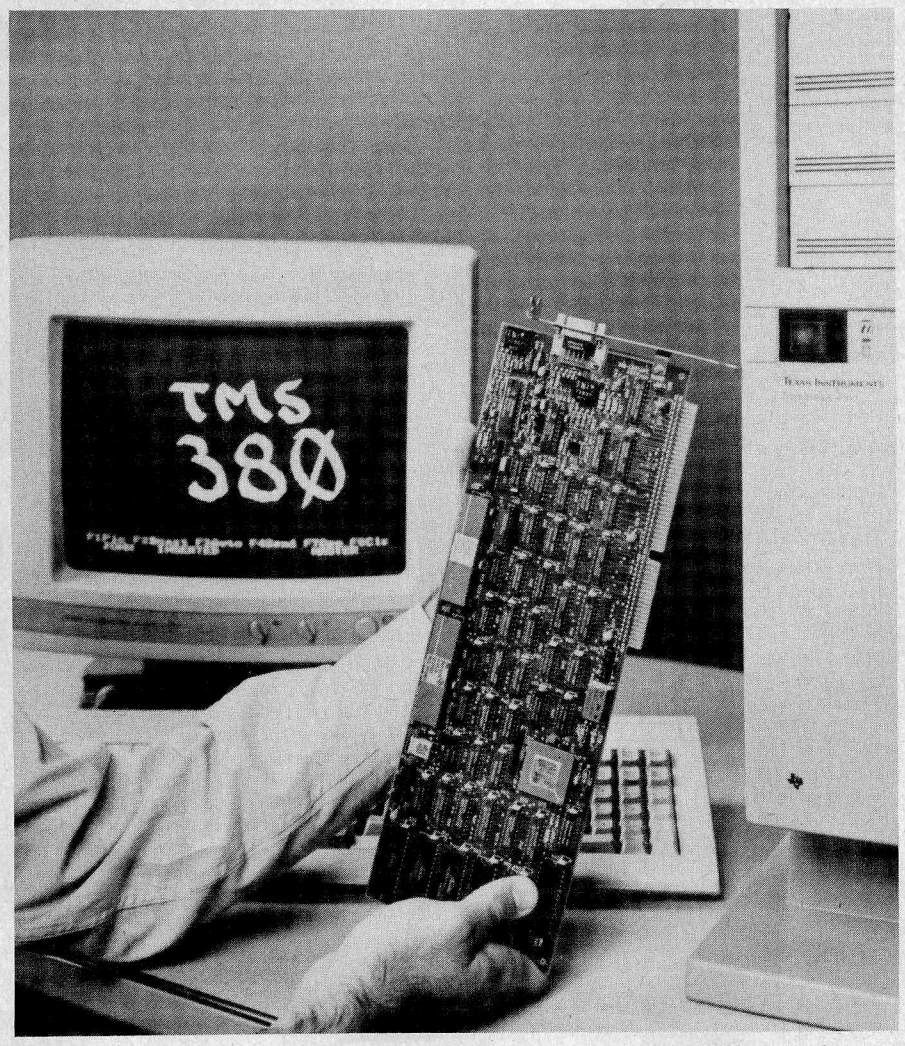
Token-ring development tools let you analyze LAN protocols and performance

The TMS380 development tools can help you develop systems that are compatible with the IBM token-ring network. The TMS380 tools let you establish an operating token ring in less than half an hour; you can then use them for protocol analysis and performance testing.

Among the development tools offered are adapter cards for the 8-bit PC bus or 16-bit PC/AT bus, demonstration software, and a unit called a test wiring concentrator, which forms the hub of a prototype token-ring network. You can connect as many as eight PCs, via the adapter cards and cables, to a concentrator. The concentrator provides traffic control for the ring, bypassing inactive stations and selecting active ones for ring communications. The concentrator's LED indicators let you know at a glance whether a station is inserted in the ring. You can add more PCs to the ring by chaining additional test wiring concentrators.



You can build, monitor, and analyze a token-ring network *using the TMS380 development tools. These products are the result of a joint development program between IBM and Texas Instruments.*

These TMS380 development tools support the manufacturer's previously announced TMS380 Design-in Accelerator Kit, which includes three of the manufacturer's token-ring LAN-adapter chip sets. That $1985 kit contains the hardware and debugging software needed to adapt three PCs for use on a token-ring LAN. With the kit and a test wiring concentrator, you can construct a 3-station token-ring LAN and then add a fourth PC with an adapter card to monitor and analyze the performance of the network.

You can use the TMS380 tools for system integration, communications protocol development, network traffic analysis, and performance testing. A "copy all frames" feature allows you to copy every frame of network traffic into the monitoring PC for analysis, a particularly helpful feature for the development of upper-level communications protocols, such as IEEE 802.2. You can initialize the adapter card to copy Media Access Control (MAC) frames, non-MAC frames, and information regarding the header type and frame length.

The PC adapter card features a software-controlled I/O interface. The PC/AT adapter card has a higher performance DMA interface. Both cards include 16k bytes of RAM, sockets for as many as 64k bytes of EPROM, and a socket for an address PROM. Adapter card and software, $1750. Test wiring concentrator, $1990.—***J D Mosley***

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